

HOUSE RESOLUTION 214

By Harwell

A RESOLUTION to recognize Joyce Espy Searcy on the occasion of her retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of Bethlehem Centers of Nashville.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is Joyce Espy Searcy who, having served with distinction as President and Chief Executive Officer of Bethlehem Centers of Nashville for twenty-two years, took a much deserved retirement from this post on October 15, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Searcy has been appointed to the new position of Director of Community Relations at Belmont University; in this role, she will identify and cultivate alliances with neighborhoods, community groups, nonprofit organizations, and governmental agencies to increase the effectiveness of Belmont's local outreach and service initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Searcy learned the value of service to others at an early age; this guiding principal played an important role in her remarkable success at the helm of Bethlehem Centers of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi, Ms. Searcy grew up in a segregated school system and graduated from both Fisk University and Vanderbilt University; in 2008, she completed Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management program; and

WHEREAS, throughout her tenure at Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, Joyce Espy Searcy worked tirelessly to provide excellent social services such as the Center's award-winning

childcare program, which allows young mothers to leave their children in a safe and caring environment while learning important parenting and job skills; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to helping women advance professionally extends to her civic involvement as well; Ms. Searcy is a founder of the Association for Non-profit Executives, was a member of the inaugural Nashville Human Relations Commission, and is a founding member of the Nashville Youth Partnership; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in her community, Ms. Searcy has devoted her time and energies to a number of civic organizations, including serving as Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Leadership Nashville, Secretary of the New Level Community Development Corporation, co-Chair of the 2008-09 Nashville Chamber Education Report Card Committee, and member of the National Board of Girl Scouts USA; and

WHEREAS, Joyce Searcy has been recognized with numerous awards of distinction, including the prestigious Athena Award in 2008 and recognition from the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, the ACLU, the Nashville Conference of Christians and Jews, the NAACP, and 100 Black Men; and

WHEREAS, further honored as Alpha Kappa Alpha's Regional Member of the Year, Ms. Searcy has also been named as a Nashville Saint by the *Nashville Scene* and was inducted into the Academy for Women of Achievement; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Joyce Espy Searcy has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and the good people of this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize Joyce Espy Searcy on the occasion of her retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, applaud her outstanding record of public service, and wish her every continued success in her new position as Director of Community Relations at Belmont University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.